



CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

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FOUR ROCKFORD RESIDENTS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR THEFT OF FIREARMS DURING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PHILLIP J. NICOLSI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Today, United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard sentenced **STEVEN J. KLIKNO**, 38, and **KARL J. DANIELS**, 50, both formerly of Rockford, Illinois, to federal prison for their roles in a residential burglary on Horton Street in Rockford on June 6, 2006 during which nine firearms were stolen. Klikno was sentenced to 15 years and 8 months in federal prison, without parole, for being a felon in possession of firearms. Klikno, a five-time convicted felon who qualified as an "Armed Career Criminal" in federal court, was also ordered to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from prison, and ordered to pay a \$400 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

As part of his plea agreement which was entered on May 9, 2007, Klikno admitted that on June 6, 2006, he, **BRIAN S. SAWTELLE**, and **DEANNA R. ADAMS** committed a residential burglary at a house on Horton Street in Rockford. According to Klikno's plea agreement, during the burglary, Klikno and Sawtelle stole nine firearms, while Adams acted as a lookout and then as the getaway driver. Klikno admitted that he, Sawtelle, and Adams then took the firearms to **KARL J. DANIELS'** residence, where they tried to make arrangements to sell the firearms in exchange for crack cocaine. According to the plea agreement, Adams and Sawtelle later sold three of the firearms to **VICTOR A. DEAN** for \$75.00.

Sawtelle, Adams, and Daniels have all been sentenced for their roles in the crimes. On August 31, 2007, **Sawtelle**, 27, formerly of Rockford, a six-time felon who also qualified as an "Armed Career Criminal," was sentenced to 11 years and 9 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of being a felon in possession of firearms, and to a 5 year period of supervised release following his release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine and a \$100 special assessment. On May 1, 2007, **Adams**, 36 and formerly of Rockford, was sentenced to 26 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of theft of firearms, and to a 3 year period of supervised release

following her release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine and a \$100 special assessment. Also today, **Daniels**, 50 and formerly of Rockford, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison without parole for the offense of receipt of stolen firearms, and a 3 year period of supervised release following his release from prison, and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

Victor A. Dean, 41 and formerly of Rockford, pled guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms on August 3, 2007. He is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Reinhard on October 26, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. Dean faces a maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and up to 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison. All five defendants have been in custody since their arrests on June 6, 2006.

First charged by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office under state law, these defendants were transferred to federal court where they were charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

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